

To the Chairman, Members of the Warrap
Urban Sanitary Authority.

Annual Report for the year ending Dec 1895

Gentlemen - I beg to enclose my report for the
six months ending Dec 31. 1895, during which
time I have acted as yr Medical Officer.

There was a large number of cases of measles
in Oct of a mild type & there have been a
few cases of Influenza & whooping cough, but
with these exceptions the district has been
free for infectious disease.

The number of births in the year was 61, show-
ing a decrease of three on the number
returned last year. The number of deaths in
the year has been 41.

The number of deaths of infants under one year
has been 15. The general mortality for Warrap
in 1895 calculated on the population of the
last Census was 24.9 per thousand.

The Average General Mortality for rural districts
in England in 1881 (the latest published
statistics which I have at hand) was 16.8
per thousand.

The Infant Mortality under one year in Warrap
during 1895 was 24.5 per thousand children
born. The Average Infant Mortality in 1881
throughout England was 130 per thousand.

The General death-rate in Warrap during the
last five years deserves attention.

General death rate in Warrap in 1891 = 19.7 per 1000
" " " " " " 1892 = 20.4 " "
" " " " " " 1893 = not ascertained
" " " " " " 1894 = 25.2 per 1000
" " " " " " 1895 = 24.9 " "

This death rate needs correction as the population has increased. The increase in the population does not however affect the Infant Mortality as that is calculated on No. of deaths in every thousand children born.

In 1891 the number of houses inhabited was 243
" 1895 " " " " 283

The increase in the number of inhabited houses by forty makes it probable that the population has increased by about 200 so that the present population may be said to be about 1664.

The general death rate calculated on this number would be 24 per thousand.

From the above it is clear that the death rate of Warrap is a very high one for a rural district, that the mortality among infants is specially high as 245 children under one year die (at the present death rate) for every thousand born in Warrap, while the average mortality in England is 130 deaths for every thousand born, showing an excess of 115 deaths or nearly double what it ought to be. How can this be accounted for by any epidemic of infectious disease, for, in examining the cause of death in the 15 infants under one year, such causes as Convulsions, debility, disorders of the bowels & rickets account for 10 of the 15 deaths.

Where improper feeding & bad sanitary surroundings exist, these diseases usually account for a large number of deaths. I shall these causes exist in Warrap it is impossible to deny.

The condition of the drainage, the water supply, the want of light & ventilation & the dampness of many of the houses & the habit of improperly feeding infants from almost their birth are quite sufficient to account for the high mortality.

The drainage. It is difficult to know what may profitably be said on this subject, as on looking over the reports of previous Medical Officers, I find that the sanitary condition of the Village has been condemned in the strongest terms. The Village depends on surface drainage for the removal of its sewage. This may answer well in most country places, but owing to the almost dead level of the situation & also to the small amount of land surrounding a great many of the houses preventing the disposal of refuse in gardens, it is not suited to towns. All pig sties, farmyards, & stable slaughter-houses the slaps for dwellings drain into the street gutters but not all into the gutters are swept the refuse for the many courts & alleys which abutted off the main street.

The guttering is worn out & rotten & the sewerage wh. passes into it collects in stagnant pools, until flushed out by the water cart or assisted by the broom of the scavenger, soaking into the ground beside the houses. The smell from the street gutters is most objectionable & must be very injurious to health. At the lower part of the Village, the guttering ends in a large drain which passes into the Killage river bedden. Until a sewerage scheme can be taken into consideration an improvement might be effected by relaying the gutters, by not allowing solid refuse to be swept into them, by a better system of scavenging & by flushing the gutters out every other day.

The Water Supply of the Village is derived from shallow wells averaging about 12 ft in depth. The soil is of a very porous nature being of sand & gravel. Many of the wells cannot fail to be affected by the many sources of impurity wh.

best around them. Much of the water has a dull
earthy taste, specially noticeable when boiled.
On testing 12 samples fr various parts of the village
I found ammonia & nitrate in 10 out of the 12
samples indicating probable animal contamination
Most of the water fr the wells along the main
street is of a suspicious character, whilst
the water fr wells on higher ground as at
the top of Butt Lane & at Alconway Hill, is of
a much better quality.

The following are the chief improvements during
the last six months.

The state of Carr Lane has been much improved
by laying down sanitary pipes to replace the
stagnant ditch into wh. the sewerage fr
Alconway Hill emptied. A new drain has been
laid for about 30 yds. at the junction of Back Lane
with Butt Lane. South Back Lane is still in a
very filthy condition. The sewerage often leaves
the guttering & wanders about the road. The
guttering in Butt Lane has been improved but
the gratings are often blocked & the stream
of sewerage stopped by the quantity of solid
refuse thrown into the gutters. A manure
has been abated at the back of the post office
on the premises of Miss Wood.

The water supply to Mr. Wilkinson's house in
Butt Lane has been improved. Arrangements
have been made for improving defective drains
& pipes on the property of Messrs. Alcockman &
Clayton in Carr Lane. The water supply &
drainage to eight cottages at Church Watraps
belonging to Sir William Fitz Herbert have been
improved. The premises at the back of the
Gate Inn belonging to the same owner have been
improved. Mr. Lee of Langwith has improved

The drainage & water supply of two cottages
in Carr Lane.

I am, Gentlemen
Yrs faithfully
E. Nutting

Medical Officer to the Warrap Urban
District Council.

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